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The Problem Gambling Help Network of WV

Youth Prevention Mini-Grant Request for Proposal FY 2023 – 2024

Information and Background:

Problem gambling affects thousands of West Virginians. Research consistently shows that most of the youth population participates in some form of gambling activity and that there is a significant overlap between gambling disorder and gaming disorder, which heavily affects the teen population. The earlier that one is exposed to or participates in a gambling activity, the more likely one will be to develop a gambling disorder in the future. The awareness of the ways problem gambling affects adults has been continuing to increase; however, it is not the same for the impacts gambling has on the youth. Problem gambling in the early years of life can negatively impact the individual's health on a mental, emotional, and social level, can negatively affect development and academic performance, give an increased risk of developing other addictions, and may cause adverse health, social, and economic outcomes into adulthood.¹ Youth are two – four times more likely than adults to develop a gambling problem. A 2018 study of over 500 West Virginia youth showed that nearly 50% gamble, including over 25% who will gamble on sports. Over 25% agreed with the statement, “Gambling is a good way to make money.” Over 50% admitted they spent 4+ hours per day of screen time, 60% said they had tried to cut down on screen time, and 20% admitted gambling online.

Unlike other problematic or addictive behaviors, many adults may ignore, condone, or encourage gambling behavior. Gambling addiction correlates with many harms to everyone involved, including depression and suicide.² Even with documented research on the effects of gambling addiction, there are very few prevention activities in West Virginia geared toward this issue. The Problem Gambling Help Network of West Virginia are providing mini-grants to community groups and agencies to undertake prevention activities aimed at promoting awareness of the dangers of youth gambling.

For more information on our program, and on gambling addiction in West Virginia, please visit our website, <http://getaheadofthegame.net/>, and <https://www.1800gambler.net/>.

¹ Armitage, R. (2021). Gambling among adolescents: an emerging public health problem. *The Lancet Public Health*, 6(3), e143. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s2468-2667\(21\)00026-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/s2468-2667(21)00026-8)

² Marionneau, V., & Nikkinen, J. (2022). Gambling-related suicides and suicidality: A systematic review of qualitative evidence. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 13, 980303. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsy.2022.980303>

Scope of the Grant:

1. Grant Activities should take place between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024.
 - These activities may take place over the course of the year or be for a shorter duration.
2. Most Grants will range from \$1,000 to \$4,000. Different levels of funding will be available.
3. Grantee must submit an invoice for payment.
4. Payments will be made in four disbursements:
 - The first will be in August 2023 (for July-September)
 - The second will be in September 2023 (for October-December)
 - The third will be in December 2023 (for January-March)
 - The fourth will be in March 2024 (for April-June)
5. A report on activities is required to be submitted each month.
6. A scheduled monthly meeting via phone or Zoom is required.
7. At least one representative from the organization must attend an in-person training in Charleston on August 11, 2023. One overnight hotel lodging will be provided for those traveling more than 50 miles.

We are asking that you provide a proposal of potential activities that your organization could provide to incorporate problem gambling prevention activities. The proposal should also include contingency plans that take into consideration how you will continue to work with youth in the event that you are unable to conduct in-person events.

Examples of youth prevention outreach and education:

- Adding screening for problem gambling into agency intakes.
- Developing and implementing a targeted social media campaign.
- Using an evidence-based curriculum such as Stacked Deck to teach three to five class sessions.
- Administering the youth gambling survey (in digital form provided by us).
- Hosting small group discussions on problem gambling with parents.
- Hosting small group discussions among teens on the topic of gambling.
- Exhibiting youth gambling information at community health fairs and events (tabletops), screens for potential problem gambling.
- Distribution of information at partner resources such as libraries, health centers, post offices, churches, etc.,
- Participating in Problem Gambling Awareness Month (PGAM).
- Participating in the National Problem Gambling Disorder Screening Day or another day of your choice during PGAM.
- Participating in the National Problem Gambling Prevention Christmas campaign.
- Hosting youth-specific activities that promote awareness and education on problem gambling.

Additional Funding Opportunity:

Partnering with colleges/universities in your area to promote awareness and prevention education outreach to the collegiate population can increase awarded funding amount. This includes partnering with grantees of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and other collegiate organization(s). Activities in this partnership may include tabletops at campus events, distribution of prevention materials at various collegiate locations, conducting problem gambling surveys and screenings, hosting informative discussions with campus organizations, etc.

Application Submission:

1. To apply for the grant, please complete this form:
<https://form.jotform.com/231345319688060>
2. Applications must be submitted by July 21, 2023.
3. Awards will be announced on July 31, 2023. Grant awardees will be notified by email.

Thank you for your interest in the Problem Gambling Help Network of West Virginia Youth Mini-Grant. If you have any questions or for more information, please contact:

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